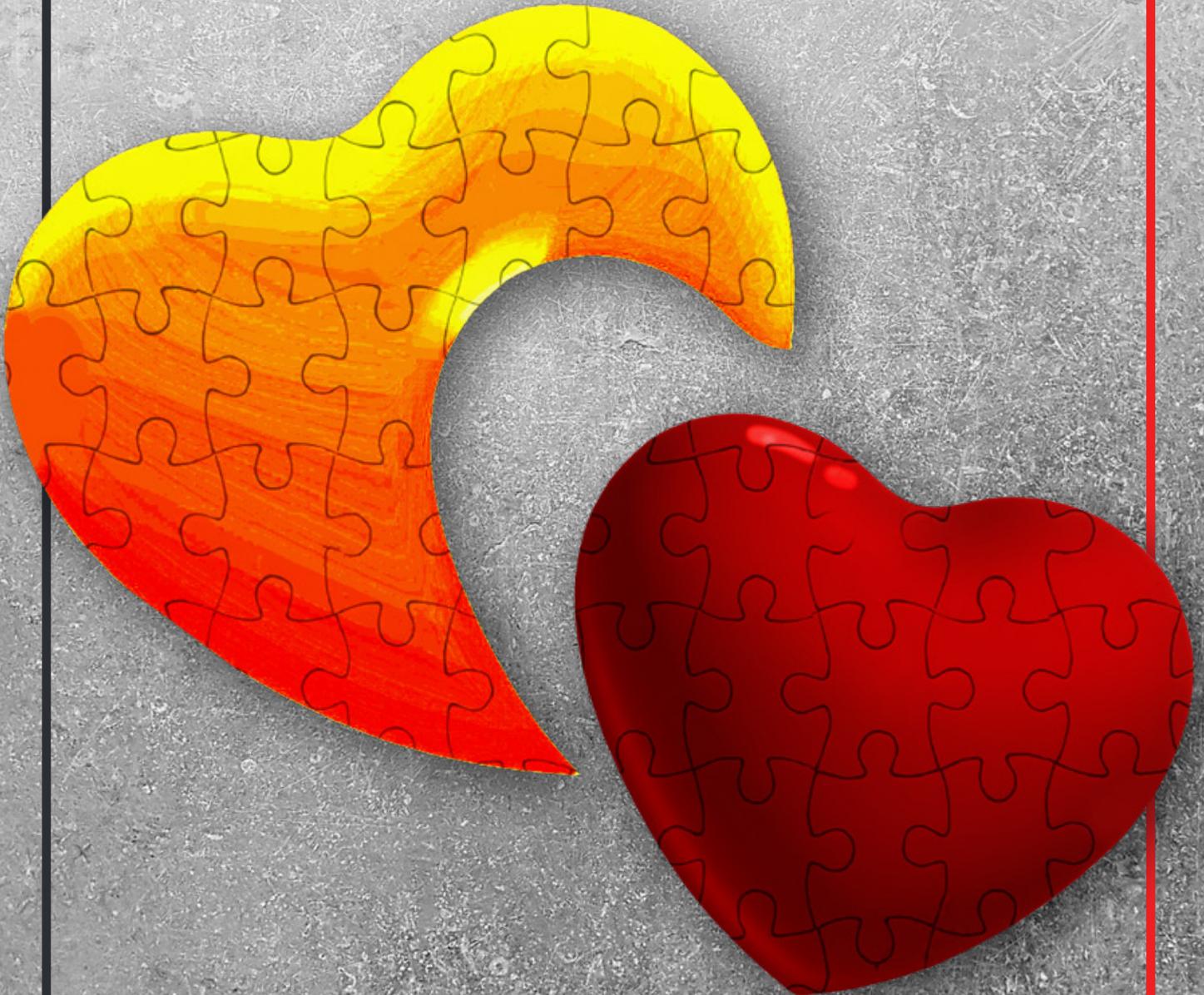


GENEROSITY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

VOLUME 4

A Compilation of stories on Giving in the time of
the Covid-19 Pandemic in Uganda

Period Covered | August-September 2020



About CivSource Africa

CivSource Africa is a philanthropy support and advisory organization committed to nurturing a more sustainable, effective and connected civil society that advances the dignity and voices of all people. We do this through promoting reflective, responsive, and accountable philanthropic practice.

CivSource Africa is also passionate about promoting African philanthropy and telling the stories of African giving and generosity.

Plot 18, Balikuddembe Road, Naguru Kampala,
Uganda
P.O Box 4310 Tel: +256 393 224 056
civsourceafrica.com
info@civsourceafrica.com



<https://www.facebook.com/CivSourceAfrica>



<https://twitter.com/CivsourceAfrica>

**WHERE
PHILANTHROPY
MEETS CIVIL
SOCIETY**



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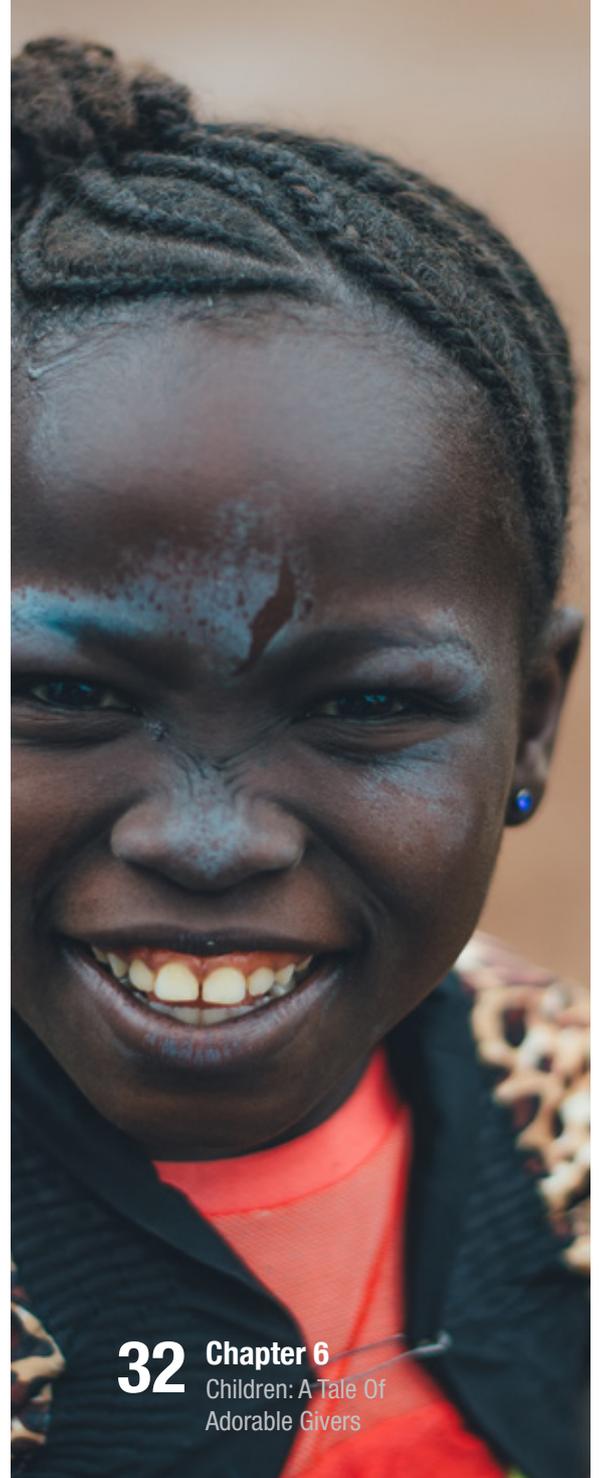
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Foreword

We are honored to bring you the forth and final installment of the “Generosity During COVID” reports.

It has been a true pleasure looking for and recounting these stories and expressions of Ugandan generosity, community solidarity and Ubuntu.

Our aim has been to share the stories of the ‘little givers’ - those whose stories while every bit as worthwhile, are not likely to make their way into the public domain. By telling the story of the ‘little giver’ by which we mean, those with limited economic means at their disposal, we want to show that ALL givers count.

We want to both #ShiftThePower - that is, highlight and spotlight the great contribution that local communities make to meeting development needs and propelling societal advancement, to also continually #ShiftTheGaze - from only/mostly big donors and givers with vast amounts of wealth, to

consistently showcase how all kinds of individuals and communities are expressing generosity, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We think it is important to shift that gaze in a way that enables us to acknowledge and also think about how to grow and strengthen giving from the ground up. It is important to build the right kind of infrastructure that is socially embedded, culturally appropriate and owned by givers in Africa.

Finally, telling these stories has reminded us of the power of the collective. Indeed one of the African proverbs that aptly captures this moment is: **“If people come together, they can even mend a crack in the sky.”**

We wish you great reading.

Karibu!

CivSource Team

Acknowledgements

We owe a great debt of thanks to Ms Caroline Ariba who helped compile the stories in this report. We also thank Ms Barbara Sebalu Sematimba and Ms Jacqueline Asimwe who helped us edit this report. We thank Mr. Stuart Nsingwire who helped with the publication design.

We thank the team at NakivArt, who allowed us to use their painting for the back page of this report. NakivArt is an art collective for and by refugees that live in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Isingiro (in Western Uganda). NakivArt uses drawing and drama to heal trauma.

NakivArt used their art skills to educate their community about keeping safe during the Corona pandemic.

This report was made possible by the generous support of Global Fund for Community Foundations.

Acronyms

| | |
|----------|---|
| CAO | Chief Administrative Officer |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease of 2019 |
| CSR | Community Social Responsibility |
| FIFA | Federation of International Football Association |
| FUFA | Federation of Ugandan Football Association |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| OPM | Office of the Prime Minister |
| PPE | Protective Personal Equipment |
| RDC | Resident District Commissioner |
| UGX | Uganda Shillings |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| URN | Uganda Radio Network |
| USAID | US Agency for International Development |
| VHTs | Village Health Teams |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |

Background

When news first broke of a deadly virus in Wuhan City- China, the world was mostly un-phased. A few months later and the virus had spread across the world, no one saw it coming; not even WHO, the body tasked with forewarning about potential epidemics. The novel coronavirus did not give anyone enough warning!

Eventually it was declared a pandemic, but before this, some countries had sprung into action. Borders were closed, and the general population was put on lockdown and curfew restrictions; a response that caused a lot of economic strain.

Left without sources of income or food, the poor went hungry; and despite the government's efforts, the help given was not enough. In Uganda, the lockdown intensified in an overnight decision in April 2020, causing visible strain on the population as the announcement for a total lockdown found many unprepared.

The acts of philanthropy marked the silver lining of the pandemic as it is the largest targeted giving ever witnessed in Uganda. People, organisations and initiatives gave; most gave willingly to share whatever they could in kind and in monetary value. While some of the giving was broadcast in the media, a lot was done behind the scenes and in the hard to reach parts of communities.

Since giving comes in all forms, the reports that have documented the accounts of giving of this period, have now reached volume four.

This fourth edition reflects on how these acts of giving have matured and settled into consistent support from those who can to those who cannot support themselves. A pattern of social capitalism seems to be developing a culture of social entrepreneurs, that we would be keen to follow, post 2020, and beyond the COVID-10 pandemic, to see if this will become an evolution and culture that expects social wealth that responds in times of crises.



Chapter 1 CORPORATE GIVING

Corporates and parastatals alike continued with their giving, and soon lost the zeal to advertise their initiatives, and gained the true spirit of true Social capital, where giving and sharing of one's resources becomes organic and less staged. Unlike the onset of the lockdown, where a list of givers was made public, and the donations collected centrally, the public collections were then distributed directly to those that needed it. Giving became less of a logistical challenge as it became directed to meet an immediate need and became more spontaneous and without publicity and marketing stunts.

The giving in the months of August-September became more aligned with looking at sustainable support for those in need, other than as once off donations. Donations aimed at combating the spread of the virus, continued particularly to health institutions. On the 7th August, for example, Mubende Regional Referral Hospital got the much-needed donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to help curb the spread of

COVID-19 among its health workers.

This donation of PPE valued at UGX 74Million (about \$20,000) was given by Standard Chartered Bank in partnership with Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI). The donation included: disposable coveralls, eye goggles, heavy-duty and surgical gloves, aprons, infrared thermometers, N95 masks, sanitizer, liquid soap, hand wash gel, Jik, sodium hypochlorite, examination gloves, waste bins, nasopharyngeal swabs among other supplies. This was given to support the frontline healthcare workers at the regional hospital that receives a large number of patients, increasing the medical staff's exposure to the virus. The Corporate Affairs Manager, Standard Chartered Bank Uganda, Ms. Cynthia Mpanga, handed the donation to Dr. Alex Andema, Mubende Regional Referral Hospital Director, as the bank's quick response to the threatening COVID-19 challenge to the Mubende community. He assured the bank of the good and effective use of the PPE to serve the people of Mubende.

Five Million Shillings for Bushenyi

Letshego Holdings Ltd, under its subsidiary Letshego Uganda, continued to help in the fight against coronavirus, by donating UGX 5 Million (\$1,350) on the 18th August-2020, to Jolly Tibemanya, the Bushenyi Resident District Commissioner to support the taskforce in the prevention against Coronavirus and towards support of the communities. Mr. Aijukwe Giles, Letshego CEO said this would enable the district teams across the nine sub-counties, five town councils and a municipality of Bushenyi to do their work effectively, as well as help support shortages in food, medical and emergency assistance. This would be on-going support provided by Letshego Holdings even after the lockdown period. Bushenyi District CAO, Malik Mahabba, assured the donors that this funding will also be used to create more awareness about the virus.

An Information Hub to Save Small Businesses

Stanbic Bank started the COVID-19 Business Info Hub to help small businesses get back on their feet through the challenging and uncertain time for Africa's enterprises, that include individual entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises and even large companies. Most companies started to work remotely as they planned to restructure to deal with the cutting of costs, and with the impact that COVID-19 had on smaller businesses, in particular. Free online meetings that provide business survival toolkits have added great benefit to businesses trying to stay afloat, without funding.

The hub is run in partnership with the African Management institute and has since become a centralised platform for Stanbic Bank to communicate the bank efforts in responding to the enterprise client needs in Uganda. The head of personal and business banking Grace Muliisa, stated how they recognise the need to grow business continuity into future structures.



Coca-Cola's Hand Washing Installations

The Namanve-based Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (Uganda office) continued to help in the country's battle against the novel coronavirus. They established 800 public hand wash stations across the country, starting with Kampala, Mukono, Mbarara, Buikwe and Kalungu districts.

Speaking to East Africa Business Week, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa General Manager in Uganda, Melkamu Abebe, said that the August donation features 5,000-litre tanks and more than 3,000 20 litre hand wash jerrycans.

Coca-Cola's hand washing stations are interventions in crowded areas with a shortage hand washing facilities. Such areas include urban and peri-urban areas that serve food, and where people congregate in large numbers such as a transport stations

like at the Taxi and bus park. Abebe stated Coca-Cola's commitment to support and participate in prevention campaigns against the virus.

Upon receiving the hand-washing installations, Dr. Daniel Sentamu, thanked Coca-Cola for increasing access to sanitation stations to prevent infections, and lauded them for the initiative and urged the general public to make use of the stations as often as possible.

Today, the Kalungu District's public hand wash stations can be found in Lukaya Town, a well-known major stop for public taxis and buses. The other hand washing stations can be found in busy street food spots like Najjembe, Namawojjolo, Ssenyi, and Kiyinda areas, along the busy Jinja Road Highway, among others.



Makerere University's 'Touchless' Donation

In August-2020, Makerere University donated three touchless handwashing kits to Mulago National Referral Hospital and the College of Health Sciences (CHS).

At the event presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the University affirmed its commitment to the fight against the coronavirus.

According to the official university's news website Mak -News, the two kits were handed over to the representative of the hospital director, Dr. Christine Byanyima, who said the kits would go a long way in the helping prevent infections, particularly in the crowded areas of the hospital.

To date, Mulago Referral hospital has treated thousands of COVID-19 patients and currently has 50+ new cases, daily. Due to the more relaxed restrictions of level 3, Uganda's incidence rate is higher through community spread of the disease, making it more evident that the more patients are yet to come in.

While collecting the donation on behalf of the College of Health Sciences (CHS), Dr. Waiswa Gonzaga said the handwashing technology was a timely and necessary donation to enable appropriate social distancing in the emergency wards where the large volumes and movement of people challenges the limited sanitising equipment currently available.

Medical Students attending their clinical exams at the department of Health Sciences also use the same handwashing stations, that helps observe social distancing among the many students as well.

Makerere University School of Technology invented the TW-20 kit as innovative technology in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These kits limit contact with surfaces while dispensing sanitising liquid or soap, while maintaining hand hygiene. This will go down as one of the many impactful donations made by Makerere University during the lockdown, 2020.



A Different Type of Giving

“If necessity is the mother of invention, then creativity is it’s father” Einstein.

This season has incited the need to do things differently and by the end of August-2020, Telecom giant MTN launched its all Africa “#WearItForMe Everywhere you go” campaign in 21 African countries and in its Middle Eastern markets. With the wearing masks being the most effective preventative measures to slow the spread of the virus and accelerate recovery, MTN is helping drive this much-needed change in behaviour, by committing its September 2020 marketing resources to encouraging everyone to do more to save lives. The everyday practise has been that many people negate the importance of wearing masks and refuse to wear them, of they wear them incorrectly.

MTN Uganda’s campaign has they sought out mothers of celebrities to communicate the importance the importance of wearing masks by addressing all children to do so, and using video recordings, have created a means for mothers in the nation to be seen by many as addressing the populace. Next, the celebrities made videos in return, agreeing to do as their mothers have asked – playing on the role of the African mother whose word is often respected and deserving of a positive response.

Explaining the campaign, the company’s president and CEO, Ralph Mupita said “Wearing a mask is not only about protecting oneself but about respecting and protecting others, over and above the required regular handwashing and strict social distancing which are just as important.”



Africell on Awareness

Africell another telecommunications company, also joined the campaign in raising awareness about the need to prevent the spread of the virus. Their campaign was focused on staying at home while providing benefit of using their daily airtime and data packages. First was the ‘Stay Home Bonuses’, which encouraged customers to stay home while communicating with friends, loved ones, and colleagues at a discounted rate.

Next was the ‘Stay Safe’ campaign, which was Africell committing their August/September marketing budget to provide a constant flow of trustworthy news and

information on the radio, social media, and Africell website. Africell mobile customers also had free access to essential websites related to health, media, information, e-learning, and government data, such as www.who.int or www.academia.edu without using personal data bundles.

Through their ‘Emergency Connectedness’ campaign, Africell also donated free emergency communication packs to the public, comprising of free 20 minutes and 20Mb valid for 3 months. This was Africell’s way of contributing to the importance of being connected and informed during the pandemic.

Data for a Good Cause

When Give Directly, an NGO funded by USAID needed to donate funds to the most vulnerable populations in Lira District, the telecommunication sector played a great role in securing \$10 Million (about UGX Shs 36 Billion) towards livelihood support for 120,000 families in Uganda affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in direct cash transfers.

According to The Observer, a total of \$750, 000 (about UGX 2.7 Billion) in cash transfers via mobile money cell phone, that took place on August 6 and benefited about 10,000 people from three parishes, when they each received UGX 100,000 (\$27).

Michael Kayemba, the Country Director of Give Directly, said that the direct cash transfers injected

into Lira District fiscal economy for 2020, was supported by MTN and Airtel telecommunication companies, with no expectations from the beneficiaries to sign -up as MTN or Airtel users.

Through, socio-economic data of the telecom companies, mobile phone users from any network that could be identified as living in the poorest areas in each parish, were contacted for consent for a cash transfer to be sent to them for withdraw at their network payout point.

They were reached either through SMS messages, automated calls, or call centre agents. Without the telecom infrastructure, this timely donation would not have been executed seamless as it was.



Photo credit: Kawowo.com

Giving and Social Distance

Fresh Dairy corporation found a way to join the social distancing campaign right from the beginning of the lockdown and well into September.

The campaign was called 'Stay safe - Stay healthy', introduced free home deliveries of all their products areas, to all customers in Kampala and the Greater Kampala areas of Entebbe, Wakiso, and Mukono districts. The general manager of Fresh Dairy, Mr. Joseph Awino announced that this service would be available throughout the week simply by contacting the customer care toll free line on 0800100020/21 or WhatsApp 0715744664 throughout the day (8:00am to 6:00pm) to place orders for free delivery.

The deliveries would be done by the corporation's motorbike delivery team equipped with health and

safety gear such as masks, gloves, sanitisers, and maintaining social distancing to re-assure consumer safety. Payment for the orders would be made via mobile money or cash on delivery.

Jumia, an eCommerce platform, did the same when they offered to support marketplaces, with logistics, and online payments to governments in Africa. The project which was part of their global action against the COVID-19, secured online payments options that avoided physical queues and did away with face to face money transactions, and potentially reduce the person to person infection. The platform services also included giving free food deliveries across Kampala City, and heavily discounted on sanitary pads costs for girls and women.

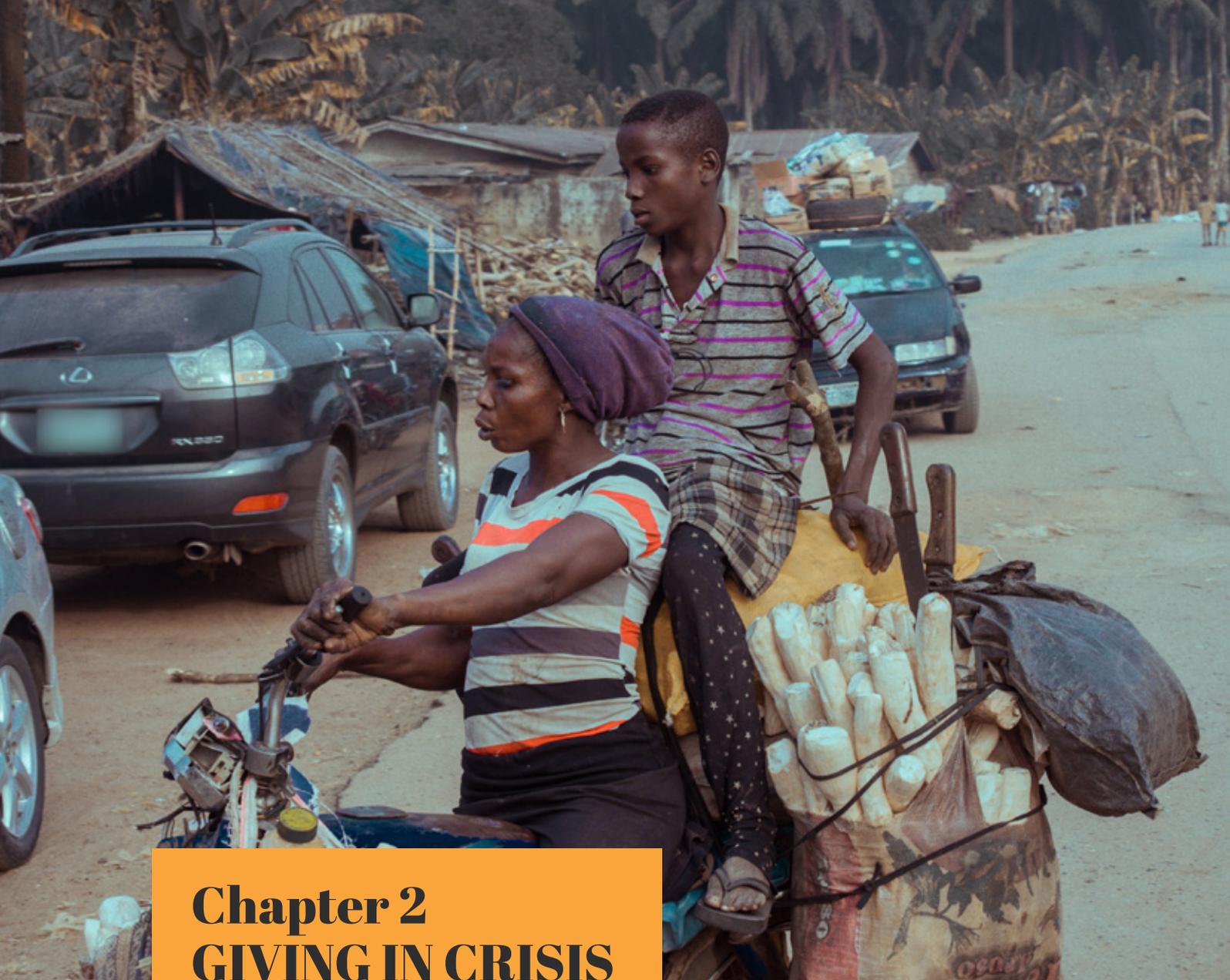


Contraceptives at your Door

Similarly, SafeBoda, a transport company and online market place, did the same, by delivering female contraceptives door to door to the great number of women that needed this service. This was a partnership between UNFPA to ensure that Ugandans had access to contraceptives at a time when movement to shops and commercial outlets was limited.

Speaking to UNFPA in July-2020,

Betty Nagadya, a Village Health Team member attached to Sentema Health Centre II, stated how this was such a welcome addition towards meeting her community's reproductive health needs. She confirmed that SafeBoda delivered over the counter contraceptives (like Postinor the emergency oral contraceptive), condoms and other services such as HIV test kits, pregnancy test kits, and Mama kits and continue to do so.



Chapter 2 GIVING IN CRISIS

In this chapter, we recognise people who gave in spite of not having much. These are people who responded because there was a need and decided to do something about it themselves, even in the midst of the spread, and decided to support the people around them in whatever way they could.

The Government of Uganda, for example, opened its borders to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), to provide haven to thousands of refugees fleeing escalating violence. The Congolese nationals who had been stranded in a remote, inaccessible area in Mahagi territory were afraid that Uganda would not open its borders to them as they fled violence and anarchy at the time of the pandemic, but Uganda did.

Data by UNHCR shows that Uganda let over 3000 refugees cross over despite being under lockdown. The UN agency in charge of refugees took the

opportunity to celebrate Uganda's generosity. They used the situation to show how human rights can still be upheld even in the middle of a pandemic.

Joel Boutroue, UNHCR's Representative in Uganda, expressed his gratitude to the Ugandan Government and the local communities for the great heart of solidarity for people fleeing conflict, proving that in times of crises, human dignity and the right to life by the protection of refugees, surpasses civil and regulatory restrictions in making international border laws accommodative.

Upon arrival, the refugees supervised by UNHCR and coordinated by the office of the Prime Minister and Local Government, entered Uganda through Zombo District, were quarantined at Zewdu Farm Institute near the border crossing, which could accommodate up to 6,000 people.

A District's Gift

Busia District may not have much, with an annual local revenue collection of UGX 270 Million (\$73,000) from a population of 360,000 people, but were able to donate Sofia Market



- a 2.9-acre piece of land to host the Health Ministry, was indeed an act of generosity. The piece of land went towards the expansion of the Port Health Hospital, a space that now houses the district's COVID-19 cases in Busia, a border town, to avoid congestion at the immigration posts at the Uganda Revenue Authority border offices that by law would only admit permitted travelers to designated quarantine facilities. In spite Sofia Market being closed to its usual economic activities, it was given to the Ministry of Health to use as the regional COVID-19 laboratory and quarantine centre.

Speaking to URN press, Vincent Okurut, the Busia Municipality Town Clerk, said that the donation will help residents of the Eastern Division. The hospital is expected to serve over 40,500 people in the Municipality.

Another Village's Help

It started when the roads that connected Butaleja District to Mbale City were cut off at both Lelesi and Mpologoma bridges by the seasonal floods. As it usually does, the Manafwa River floods all the roads and passable routes between the high and lowlands in Butaleja districts, forcing the local communities to take refuge from the lowlands to the highlands. During this time, village dwellers with houses in the highlands opened up their homes to their fleeing neighbours – relatives, and non-relatives alike, as narrated by Jemima Hirya from Butaleja. Even with the scare of the spread of the virus, these people provided places of refuge for the Butaleja folk, who they even accommodated in their kitchens, if that was the only sleeping space available.





Another Village's Help

Hopewell Balinda first noticed the snails on two of the banana plants in his garden. Upon looking closely, the farmer saw that the slimy creatures had taken over a large chunk of his garden. Frustrated, he told his neighbours who said he had noticed the same thing, as did his brother-in-law.

The farmers who reside in Kicwamba Sub-county, Kabarole District could not afford any more loss to their crops, while still recovering from the lack of sales induced by the lockdown.

“First of all, the prices of the bananas were still low, the profit margin was not going to be enough to buy those strong pesticides,” Balinda said. “Together with my fellow farmers, we took turns in each other’s gardens picking these snails with our hands.”

Even though some of them could afford the pesticides, they agreed to help each other out to ensure food security for all.

The solidarity and comradery shared by these farmers to stand together to weather the impact of a drop-in cost price of bananas to less than a dollar per bunch, saw these farmers join hands by uniting workforce so as to manually remove the pests in each other’s farm, as they could not afford to buy both pesticides and necessities for their homes.



Another Village's Help

A school in Busaano Sub-county in Mbale City opened its doors to about 400 people displaced by heavy rains in the month of August 2020. The management of Buwangwa Primary School received people from nearly 60 households to stay on the school grounds until the rains subsided.

Besides the accommodation, the school opened up its toilet facilities and made some makeshift bathrooms for the people in need. The priority was given to the vulnerable lot; families with children with special needs and the elderly were taken in first.

They were allowed to stay at the school while they waited for help

from the government. Soon the surrounding community also reached out to the displaced people with food and warm clothes.

Nearly ten villages in Mbale had some of the locals displaced by the torrential rains. Communities took the initiative and responded to help each other before relief from the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness was received.

Even with help from the Red Cross, in partnership with the Mbale District Disaster Management Committee, the local communities were the heroes here, as they stepped in, with whatever means of help they could offer, including their kitchen floors to make a

sleeping space for the displaced.

This spontaneous grassroots response from resource challenged families was the initial coping mechanism that stood the test of the human heart to even in times as



“do unto others as you would have them do for you”,



challenging as facing a pandemic.



Chapter 3 PUBLIC TO THE RESCUE

It is humbling when strangers help people they do not even know.

CivSource stories of philanthropy highlight just how much donations and fundraising became means to address the needy during the lockdown period, and revealed a compassionate heart of the Ugandan public.

Personal social media accounts and online crowdfunding sites showcased the kind of need that drew philanthropists in. The example of athlete, Patrick Opio, a Gulu-based footballer and his mother, Naomi Achayo who battled difficulty during the pandemic when he injured his leg during training, and found themselves stuck in a hospital unable to meet their bills. while his mother battled breast cancer.

Despite her pain, Achayo had to take care of her son who is now disabled and unemployed. Overwhelmed,

Opio reached out to his friend and philanthropist, Santa Adoch, asking for help. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown, Santa was unable to get around to when the numbers of infections were on the increase, and instead opted to use online platforms and social media to reach out to possible sponsors and well-wishers.

Soon a journalist Joseph Omagor sought out Opio and his mother for interviews and created awareness on need Patrick Opio and his mother. This attracted philanthropic Ugandans from as far as Canada to help. However, it was when Opio received money from a friend in Canada and handed it to his mother, to thank her for taking care of him, that the impact of the support received by needy people, can best be felt.

When Patrick Opio was given the first donation of UGX 493,000 (\$134) and later an additional amount of 1 million UGX (\$270) was raised locally.



A Sheikh with a Heart of Gold

Sheikh Erias Kigozi is celebrated by people of all walks of life for his philanthropic lifestyle as evidenced on his social media platforms where people of all religious groups respect his efforts to help people. Sheikh Kigozi has been traversing the country fundraising for those in need during the lockdown, for food, money, hygiene cleaning material and whatever could be donated. His reaching out to collaborate and find funding and help for all people cross-cutting across all religious beliefs, is proof that philanthropy cannot be done in a segregated manner, nor help and need responded to based on belief system, other than

“do to others what you would want them to do for you”.

In the case of Zakaria Kisolo, a primary seven orphan who needed a wheelchair to get from home to school, there was no need to know what religious affiliation a donor may be, as long as the need for mobility and transport to and from school can be met, without breaking any law.

Once donations are received, Kigozi posts the details of them online in order to provide some accountability and receipt of the products donated via WhatsApp message group on: +25670234927.

Sheikh Erias Kigozi’s reputable track record has earned him a large following as credible recipient and distributor of people’s willing donations. He receives many quick responses to his calls, particularly through word of mouth. For every need met or donation to collected, a story with all the details are posted, taking record of all the needs met and the capacity of civil response to meet these needs. Kigozi confidently implores the sense of human kindness and compassion to meet the need of the less fortunate.

Each account is documented via Whatsup post, with details of the need and how it has been met and photographs or video clips of the donations being delivered to the worthy recipients.

Helping their Own

A section of private school teachers in Gulu City and surrounding areas launched a social media campaign dubbed, Open our Schools or Feed the Teachers. Before starting the campaign, there was a call for teacher’s most affected by COVID-19’s lack of income, to register for food aid. They took this campaign to social media platforms when a considerable number of teachers had signed-up. Print media, including The Independent Magazine, that reported on campaign, as being a success, with food relief donations from sources like the Calvary Chapel, were received. Nearly 600 hundred teachers, mainly from Private schools, received food packages right in their homes.

Each teacher received 10 kilograms of maize floor and 5 kilograms of beans. Openytha William Lucima of the Independent Magazine explained how private school teachers had not received salaries from April 2020, unlike teachers in Government schools, and were struggling to even get the day’s meal. Charity Ajok, a teacher at Mama Catherine Primary and Nursery School, called on government to step in to support teachers at private institutions, that had no income as long as schools remained closed. The ultimate goal was to ensure that at the least, food be given to up to 1000 teachers registered under their campaign.

Stella Akong, one of the beneficiaries and a teacher at Future Hope Nursery and Primary School, said she started a food garden in her backyard in order to have a certain source of income, because it was not certain when schools would be re-opened. She said the donation of food aid supplemented what she had planted in her backyard garden.





Helping Teacher Hasakya Get a Wheelchair

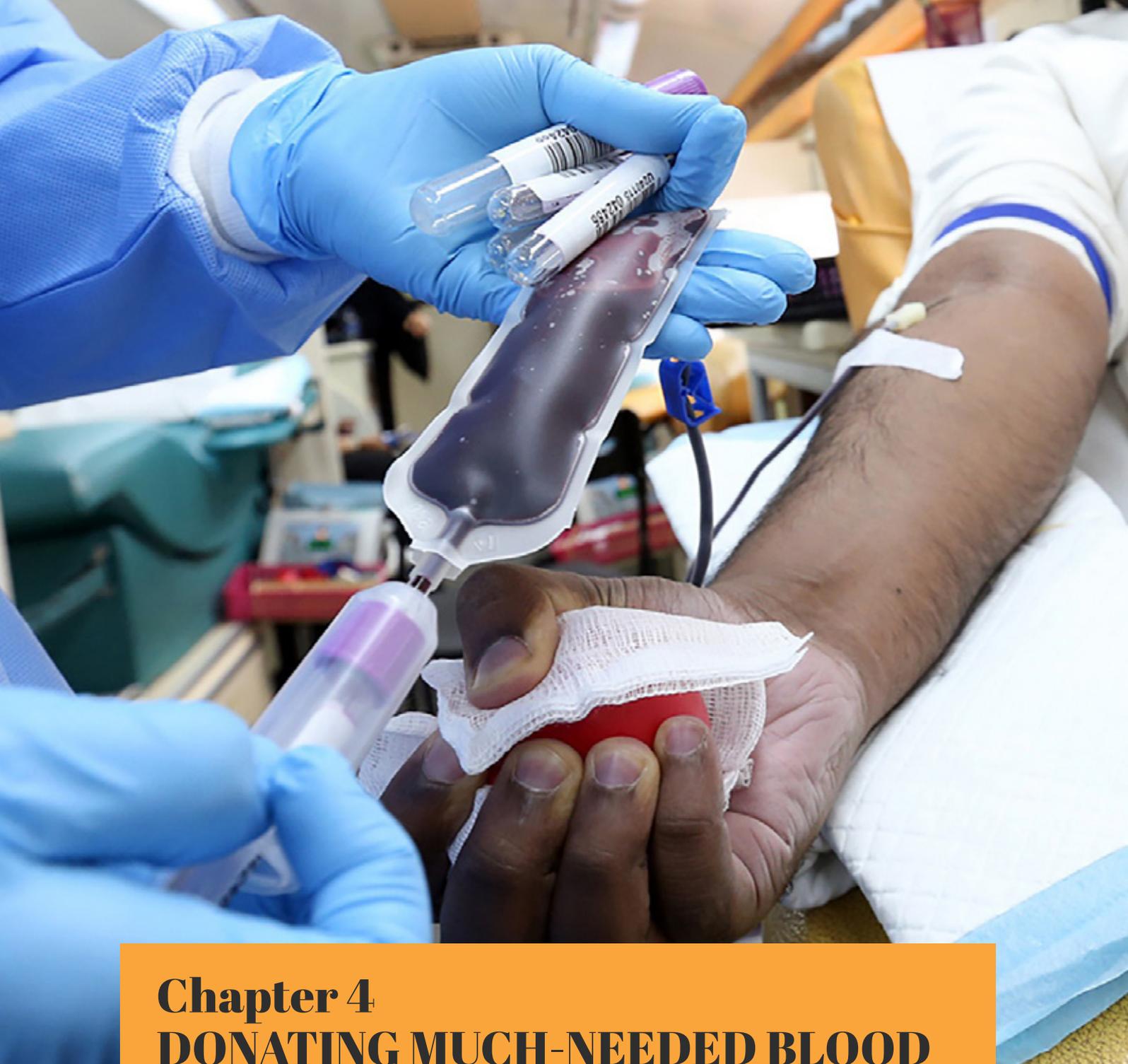
In June-2020, Hasakya Jackson, a former teacher at Uganda Martyr's Mixed Primary School Namagunga was involved in an accident that nearly claimed his life. His injuries have left him in excruciating pain and also impaired his limbs and mobility.

Without an income, Hasakya could not afford to buy a wheelchair for himself. That is when the kind-hearted John Baptist Achal stepped in to buy the wheelchair and helped to provide basic needs, as well as the needs of those around him that were in need, in spite of his limited resources and

money.

He raised awareness about Hasakya to get more people involved in supporting him in regaining his mobility and dignity, in spite the unfortunate handicap he had acquired through the accident.

Achal's commitment to this cause is indeed a great inspiration of being able to give not because one is wealthy, but simply because it is a way of life to share whatever one is able to with someone in need.



Chapter 4 DONATING MUCH-NEEDED BLOOD

Besides crippling the economy, the coronavirus pandemic led to a shortage of blood across the country. Throughout the lockdown, the press was awash with news of hospitals running out of blood, or at their very last reserves.

The Nakasero Blood Bank explained that this was due to closure of schools that are key donor centres, as well as the end of collection drives during the lockdown. This heightened the demand for blood particularly for the maternity wards in hospitals.

Shiella Twinokusiima was one such committed donor that not only continued to donate blood during the lockdown, but was able to mobilise an additional fifty people in and around the community of Mbarara to stock up the blood bank at Mbarara District Hospital.

The health workers at Mbarara District hospital and the Red Cross Society in Mbarara, celebrated Sheila's efforts in response to the blood bank campaign called #RealLifeHeroes, in which she reached husbands and relatives of expectant mothers to donate blood to the blood bank in Mbarara.

Arua's Felix Leads by Example

Felix Drapari whose job is surveillance over the city of Arua's need for emergency services, is passionate about people and their health and well-being, is also a volunteer with Red Cross Uganda's Arua office.

Felix is a mobiliser like Sheila in the previous story, in rallying the community together to become donors to Arua blood bank.

Leading by example, Drapari has donated blood just a little under 20 times, and would have donated blood monthly if this was medically possible.



A Campaign for Blood

Baby Keitha Aleng (rest in peace), admitted at St. Francis Hospital in Nsambya in critical condition, needed blood.

Comedian Agnes Akite started a blood donation drive at Kyadondo Rugby Grounds, to save Keitha's life, by collecting category B+ blood, if available or even any other, that would be used in exchange at Red Cross for her blood type.

Despite starting as a drive to help the little

girl, it became a full-blown blood drive that spread out into the entire month of August. Indeed, people with different blood groups showed up everywhere and some even at the hospital asking to donate blood.

Baby Keitha eventually received the much-needed blood, a month late, and sadly passed away in August of 2020, and will be remembered fondly as the one Ugandan that was instigated the largest single blood drive donation.

More Blood for Uganda

Blood 4 Uganda, a community of blood donors that encourage others to donate, was very helpful during the blood stock-out. Despite having links to the Indian Association, the group unites Ugandans of all ethnicity to become blood donors. Their campaign creates awareness for the need for blood donation in Uganda and to create a database of blood donors who can respond in emergencies.

This is a task take they task seriously, and celebrate donors who donate blood that saves blood, by listing all donors on the Red Cross website, and actively publicise the next blood drives. Publicly acknowledging and thanking all donors, has helped with new donor recruits.

Examples of these accounts are below:



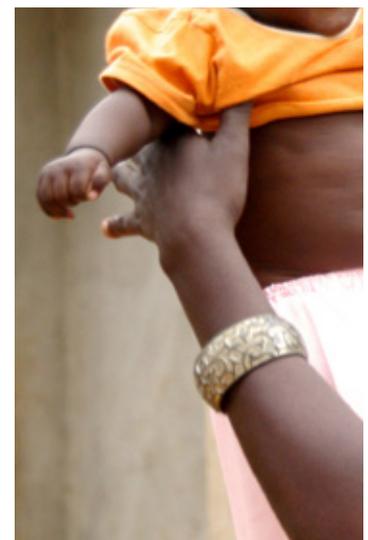
Recorder by Wante Davis Samuel:

“Thank you to whoever donated blood today at MOGAS Kyaliwajala, at the Christ Embassy Church. God bless you Dr. Juliet and Pastor Juliet plus your wonderful team of youths/ Volunteer Medical Corps who mobilized donors and also donated blood which enabled us to collect 81 units of blood,”

The group has since started a campaign called

“Say No Blood Shortages in our country Uganda”.

With the severe blood shortages, the country faced, Blood 4 Uganda ought to be celebrated, as commendable COVID-19 period philanthropists.





Chapter 5 GIVING TO SPECIAL GROUPS

People living with disabilities, people living with a potentially terminal illness, the elderly, women, and children fell into the category of persons that needed emergency help during the lockdown period. In this chapter, we explored the philanthropists who specifically aided these groups.

Winifred Ikilai, is an HIV prevention advocate, a Fellow with AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), who also works with the National Forum of People Living

with HIV and AIDs Networks in Uganda.

She is currently advocating for effective implementation of the Test & Treat HIV policy and accompanying HIV care and treatment services.

Ikilai also campaigns for the sexual and reproductive health rights of young people. Using her experience, she called attention to the fact that people living with HIV needed help.

This is her story

When the lockdown started, restrictive measures were put in place, including a ban on public and private transport. Many people living with HIV found themselves stranded and with no means of accessing health facilities for treatment, that lead to worry and fear, not knowing how best to access their drugs.

Ikilai, stated how People Living with HIV (PLHIV) coordinators from districts like Mityana, Luweero, Serere, Sembabule, Bukomansimbi, Bukedea, Kumi, Amuria, Ngora, Soroti and Masaka (including those unknown to her), reached out to her for help.

They used social media platforms to reach me, asking for support in getting their IRVs. Ikilai called out to fellow advocates and some community health volunteers who work in HIV service delivery organizations like TASO, Mildmay, and Uganda Cares, and linked them to the stranded. The organisations responded and the drugs were delivered to PLWHA.

I also generated an emergency contact list of organisations that I circulated on my social media platforms of advocacy organisations on information on how to access ARVs, food and how deliveries would be made free of charge to PLWHA. As the days progressed, the

problem became bigger across the country, and included many more districts contacting me for help.

I called several PLHIV Network leaders to assess the situation in detail and generate quick solutions on how best they could be supported to deliver drugs. I documented a status report, highlighting critical challenges faced by PLHIV in the districts of Amuria, Kumi, Kotido, Ngora, Luwero, Bukedea, Soroti, and Serere.

The key challenges included the long distance to the health facility, limited access to food, which was affecting adherence to treatment, job loss, lack of mental and emotional support, and were presented as findings in meetings with AVAC and UNAIDS, Global Fund PLHIV.

The desired objective was achieved when my organisation helped about 500 people LWHA. Some people were even supported with means of transport to deliver drugs to people who were stranded in the community.

This support came from development partners like (Global Fund, Embassy of Ireland, and UNAIDS) and organisations like TASO, Mildmay, and Baylor College Foundation in Uganda.



Vendors in Bukedea Market Rescue their Own

It had been months since they had seen their friend and colleague, Mercy Ariokot, better known as Toto. Mercy, a jovial marker vendor in Bukedea trading centre had not answered telephone calls from her friends. They decided to visit her in her home on Malera road to see if all was well.

The last time she was with them at the market, Mercy had complained of a pain in the abdomen, according to her friend Rose Kulume. That pain had been ongoing; and had intensified, as she told them her last time at her stall.

Ariokot sold off all the vegetables at the stall she shared with another vendor, and after that, never returned. She sold off her phone to help pay for medication for her

stomach illness.

Her friends decided to each put a collection of their earnings into a small lending circle of ten friends, and then contributed an additional amount that came up to nearly half a million shillings that that helped put the single mother of five back on her feet. This collection paid medication costs and the rest was invested into her business as stock, at a time when prices had escalated and would never have been able to get additional money as an injection into her business.

Rose Kulume, as one of the circle of friends, realised that they did this themselves as fellow vendors and did not rely on any wealthy donor.



Masks for the Vulnerable

Jamila Mayanja, a philanthropist and fashion designer with Smart Girls Uganda, partnered with another fashion house called Tenge collections to provide the much-needed protective masks for women vendors in the crowded market places, in the “Masks 4 All” project. When the project began, they specifically trained and employed youth and women among whom are former sex workers and survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Tenge Afrocentric Fashion House Founder and CEO, Daniel Mickoh said the Masks 4 All project would be looking to scale up to make protective gear to be distributed all over the country with a target of reaching one million people. The distribution process includes awareness sessions using community radios and public media on how to use the masks and other safety measures when the lockdown is lifted.

Together they designed a reusable three-layer mask and distributed them along

with a bottle of hand sanitizer at no cost. While this was distributed free among the vulnerable populations such as women in markets, young people in slums, boarders, barracks and refugee centres at no cost, they made masks for sale to the general public at subsidised rates.

Given the stringent safety measures set by World Health organisation for all governments to implement for the safety of populations, Uganda needed help in securing safety masks for the populace, and for the crowded market vendors who continued selling food even in Lockdown level 1.

With market being very congested places and women the majority of the vendors, population, Jamila decided that this project would be crucial to prevent the contracting of the virus as they went about their day-to-day interaction with suppliers, customers, and family members.

Helping Each Other Through it All

A story in Nakamiro Zone, Bwaise II Ward, Kawempe Division in Kampala City, caught our attention: As soon as the lockdown was announced, a group of philanthropists through their community organisation, Agali Awamu Disabled and Vulnerable Persons, anticipated they would be much need in the community. Many disabled persons approached Agali Awamu for support, as expected, and immediately set them looking for relief food. Once the lockdown was eased, Agali Awamu revived their projects among the community of people with disabilities and worked committedly to give support to all disabled.

For instance, they were given assistive devices like wheelchairs, crutches, white canes for the blind; Vitamin supplements to the children disabilities; food donations to the disabled elderly, counseling services, poultry farming projects; awareness campaigns, Albino support services like giving out sunscreens, community outreaches as examples.

They also provided skills training for those that could be included in vocational work, so as to equip them with the ability to have an income generating work of sorts, so as not to go cash-strapped again as was the case in the lockdown.



The Social Worker with A Heart of Gold

Many private health workers started testing positive for corona-virus. Through the Uganda Health Care Federation, private health facilities requested to be given just as much attention as the public facilities, as they are the main first point of contact for a significant number of suspect COVID-19 health consumers. Screening processes are lacking in as far as contact thermometers and rapid tests are concerned.

Even worse is the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in different health centers, as the main deterrent for healthcare workers coming to work, in fear of them and their families being infected.

This proves how healthcare workers sacrifice their lives and conveniences for the good of those they care for.

While their colleagues in the public health centers are getting all the training to spot and manage the illness, the private health providers have been left behind. The knowledge gap at facility level on the management of this condition

is being neglected yet it is a key component of the response.

To help bridge the knowledge gap, there is need to systematically disseminate printed clinical guidelines through health logistics organisations such as National Medical Stores (NMS) for the health workers and the communities, across public and private facilities. Communication is also required to the general public on where to go for testing, as private facilities can only screen patients.

With the seasonal illness such as malaria and flu, being concurrent concerns, many are going misdiagnosed or will be poorly managed while patients are infecting others if not identified as having COVID-19 symptoms. These are some of the health concerns that public health workers require proper testing equipment and support for, and government would consider being an answer to these concerns in order to support and protect its healthcare workers.



Helping Children

The Kids Club Kampala responded to children's needs of malnutrition and starvation in and around the city that threatened to rise during the lockdown, especially in city slum areas. They approached foreign sponsors, and any local generous supporters, to consider giving a once-off donation to meet the extra needs during this time.

What started as a humble project, benefited many households, and provided food for up to 25,000

families who otherwise would have gone hungry, by donating up to 28,291 food parcels. Food was delivered to the disabled or elderly and to all unable to access their food banks.

Sanitation equipment was also installed in the slum areas, installing 8 handwashing stations to date, which have enabled almost 60,000 people to access soap and water to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Agaba's Commitment to Orphans

Owen Agaba is a young man from Mbarara with many passions. During the lockdown Owen collected orphans in his neighbourhood and looked after them. A self-employed trader, his income diminished during the lockdown. This meant he was not earning enough money to help the children.

He got to the point of not having any of his personal money, but he continued the acts of kindness, by starting a fundraising drive to raise money for this cause, and to provide them with a meal a day.

Most of these children he was helping were not just

orphaned but also lived on the streets of Mbarara and needed accommodation which he readily offered to some. The money he received went directly towards the purchase of food, clothes, and other supplies for the children.

When not looking after the street children, the gentle Agaba visited the sick children in hospitals to lift their spirits and deliver gifts. His goal is to raise at least \$5000 and spread the help across different parts of the city, in order that no child on the streets of Mbarara will go hungry.



A Comic Book for the Little Ones

In Uganda, all students were sent home in March-2020 with no clear return date, due to the pandemic. To ensure the little ones were putting their time to good use, a group of creatives compiled a children's comic book.

The book is called, Spark Kids Diary, and compiles the ongoing ridicule and problems children face in their various families, homes, and schools. It includes topics around children's environment and how it impacts them.

The intention of the comic book, is to reflect on the five pillars of life; body, mind, soul, spirit, and heart; to try explain the balance between all those aspects of the human being in ensuring wholistic well-being. It pointed

to the fact that the bodily harm that some children are exposed to will affect their minds and souls, and vice-versa.

A fundraising drive was initiated for the public to buy ten copies each at just UGX 100,000 (\$27), and asked adults to distribute them wildly to as many children as possible, particularly the vulnerable. The creator of the book Mr. Kasango explained the need to explicitly communicate to children their rights and to help draw the line when cultural norms cause children to be subservient, and open to abuse. This was to help them identify abuse and to gain a sense of patriotism to know and do the right thing, without feeling intimidated by adults around them, and so empower them.



A Philanthropist's Strides to Help Vulnerable Children

A Philanthropist's Strides to Help Vulnerable Children

During the lockdown, Noreen Asekenye took it upon herself to seek help for the vulnerable communities through the Tell a Story Foundation Uganda. Asekenye campaign was for the public not to forget the vulnerable.

She formed "Together4Good" that was birthed because of the uncertainty of COVID-19. It is a way of reminding people that are struggling that they are not alone and that even in isolation we can still do good deeds.

Asekenye came up with a creative way to raise awareness. Instead of the annual Walk for all, she arranged for individuals to walk on their own, to avoid social gatherings, but still raise money for the number of kilometers walked.

In anticipation of the opening of schools, Asekenye also started back to school fundraisers to help the vulnerable children get scholastic materials. Besides selling Together4Good T-shirt at 6 dollars each, she opened an account to receive donations on behalf of the children.

Kamwaka to Ensure Children are Reading

Twesigye John Kamwaka is a man whose love for children and literature knows no bounds. Before the lockdown, Kamwaka had embarked on a journey to ensure the less fortunate children are reading, especially outside the classroom.

He said that to the poor, story books and crayons for colouring are luxury and not a priority aspect at all. Most schools in Uganda teach by rote and y- learning, often find 5 or 6 children sharing one text book amongst them in class, as there are simply not enough to go around.

This is the reason that lead him to start crowdfunding to raise funds to create libraries and reading resources for children that would otherwise be idle and lack any stimulus to constructively occupy themselves, and reduce the deterioration of their mental capacity.

Kamwaka believes in developing children's intellect and character by

stimulating them to gain immeasurable knowledge about their minds, body, and emotions from the literature they encounter. Scientific, creative and thinking minds are grown as young children are exposed to vast literature, and enable them gain true perspective on life at an early age. Reading helps them to form thoughts and opinions of their own based on knowledge gained from reading.

With no public or school libraries, a culture of reading cannot be created and so Kamwaka made this his mission. He describes the quality of education in Uganda are poor and often ineffective because no resources are provided to equip children to learn and study on their own.

"The value of children's books is priceless. It brands the development of personality and social skills for little ones as they are still impressionable. Exposure to literature in the early years builds character," he noted.



A Plea to Feed Mityana's Vulnerable Children

As the lockdown eased, some parents around Mityana District could still barely put food on the table for their little ones. Their sources of livelihood were depleted and they were dependent on local charities

Overwhelmed by the tales of suffering, Hope for Life Foundation (HFL) a charity in Mityana District, reached out to Ugandans to help feed some of the vulnerable children.

There was a big food crisis in our community during the pandemic. Hope for Life tried their best, and gave what they had.

Since kindness gives hope to those who feel all alone in this world, no one is exempt from trying to make a difference, they appealed to the Ugandan public to donate food to vulnerable children. The response was great and all donations given were highlighted on social media to celebrate the giving and to document what a difference in the lives of the children of HFL.

Through HFL's support, distribution of food supplies and soap to the very grateful poor children in need was made possible.



Keeping Chess Alive

Robert Katende first came into the limelight for introducing chess programs in the slums of Kampala and attracting street kids to it; and during the lockdown, he did even more. The chess coach whose efforts birthed the Disney film, 'Queen of Katwe' fed many vulnerable children for months until it was safe enough to re-introduced chess.

In the month of August 2020, he found ways to ensure the children still had a game of chess to play through his organisation called Robert Katende Initiative: Katende's strategy; was to reach children at home where the instructors visited and assisted the learners in small groups within their homes.

Katende distributed several chess boards to different homes in districts like Gulu and Hoima. These enabled the young children to keep practicing and not lose grip of what was taught. It also helped keep them busy and engaged during the pandemic crisis.

Special thanks go to all partners, friends and well-wishes of the Robert Katende Chess initiative, who continued this support towards the work of restoring hope and transforming lives through chess, "one move at a time."



Lacrosse Enthusiasts Rescued their Own

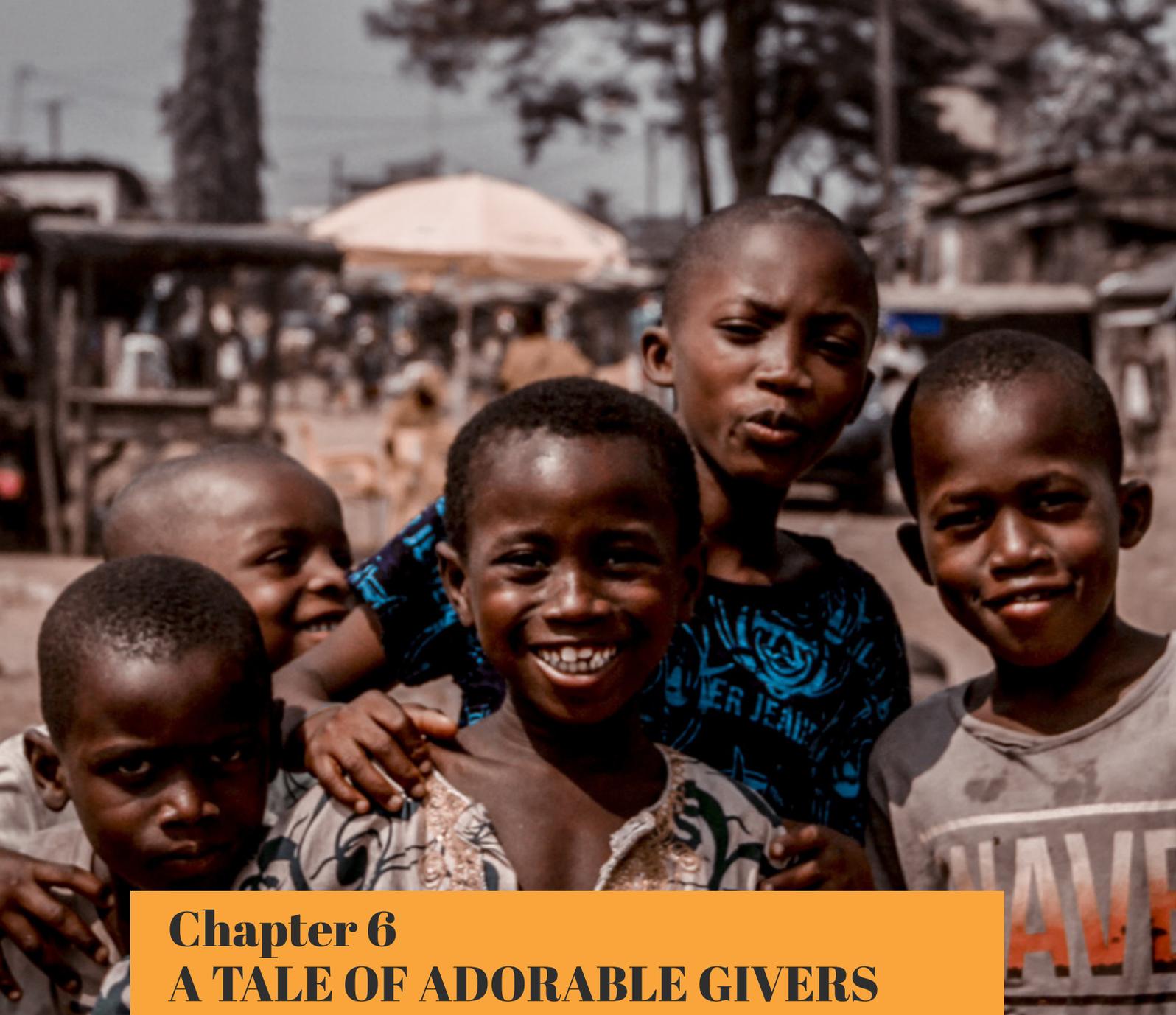
The pandemic and lockdown have left many players without a day's meal. African and Jewish Lacrosse enthusiasts donated to a section of Ugandan Lacrosse players.

The August 2020 donation is just one of the many donations since the lockdown was announced in Uganda. According to the online sports journal, Kawowo Sports, after they provided food to Silver Backs Academy and the Nile Crocs Teams, Africa and Jewish Lacrosse Foundations agreed to help out with the much need.

First on the agenda was the Jinja Nile Zulus Africa Lacrosse Academy from Eastern Uganda. They delivered about 225 Kgs for maize flour and handed over to Andrew Mamawi, the director of Jinja Nile Zulus Africa Lacrosse Academy, who committed to keep mobilising more support.

The Lacrosse enthusiasts believe that it is in times like this that many would give up on the game and this is what informed the decision to fundraise and donate to the players continually.

Though Lacrosse is not widely played, Uganda has 10 Lacrosse clubs registered under the Uganda Lacrosse Association (ULA). They noted that the game is slowly gaining ground among the country's schools and youth in general. The renowned girls' teams in the country are, Nabisunsa Girls School, Mount St Mary's Namagunga, Forest Hills (Lugazi), St Joseph Nsambya Girls, Cannan High School, Kawanda Secondary School, Grace Villa (Kabale). The known boys' teams are Kiswa Primary School, Silver Backs of the Makerere University Business School, Jinja, and YMCA.



Chapter 6 A TALE OF ADORABLE GIVERS

To help Bududa District in its health advocacy against coronavirus, the pupils of Shikhuyu Needy Care Nursery and Primary School composed a poem. Beautifully executed, the poem looks to remind all about the impact of coronavirus.

The kindergarten children were aware of the dreadful disease and how it could impact the country, and so turned to poetry to express themselves as will be shared in this chapter.

Their poem is called “*Stay Home, Stay Safe*” and is a reminder about the pain of death, a likely reality for those who will catch the virus.

This poem by the young creatives from Bukibokolo village in Bududa District was very well received, and is an inspiration to the young people in the growing parts of Masaba-land, to gain confidence rise and shine, as noted by Isaac Lulaba and Radio Maria

Stay Home, Stay Safe!
(By Shikhuyu Needy Care School)

Oh no
Gone too soon uncle Moris
Leaving a mother of four orphans

With nobody to help them fend for life

In deepened sorrow, we wait
Your friends restricted
Making the last goodbye
Of may his soul rest in peace
Indeed
Rest in peace sweet uncle...



A Budding Creative's Words

A little girl from Ebenezer Primary School in the newly formed Mbale City has a poem out. The innocence with which she tells it is what makes it special. The message is clear and not a word of it is minced.

Annabel Malinga, the 7year old budding creative and resident of Atatur Subcounty in Kumi District, said she was inspired to write the poem when the lockdown was extended and with the uncertainty of its end. She decided to write the poem to remind people to do what the President was said.

During the lockdown, she also noticed an increased number of people asking for food from neighbours and wanted everyone to be kind. She soon noticed children running about without following the regulations she could narrate off-head.

The poem is for children who move from home to home to play, and contract the coronavirus which they can spread to other older people like their grandparents. The young poet plans on writing more poems on the virus to help spread the message of prevention of coronavirus and sharing within communities.

LET US

(By Annabel Malinga)

Let us be united

Let us share

Let us love one another

Let us be brothers and sisters

But,

Let us not forget to protect each other

To protect each other, we must wash our hands

To protect each other, we must wear masks

To protect each other, we must keep social distance

But,

To my fellow children,

Let us not go and play away from home

Coronavirus is walking

When you stay home, it will not find you.

A poem about a Killer Disease

Twelve-year-old Hadassah Etyang wrote a poem about coronavirus. In this piece of writing, the Greenhill Academy pupil displays a deeper understanding of the virus. She delves into the journey of coronavirus with emphasis on how quickly it reached Uganda. Delicately mentioning the country's worst hit by the virus, Hadassah reminds us how we got here. She wonders what the human race did wrong to attract a virus this deadly. Is it a punishment from God? Hadassah then takes to advising on what will save the world. Among other things, she calls on all to follow the government's guidelines on preventing this virus. She re-echoes a message that has been conveyed globally: Unity is pertinent in the fight against coronavirus.

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COVID-19: A Killer is Here

By Hadassah Etyang

A silent murderer
A deadly disease
COVID-19 has killed, defeated, and strived against
the human race
In 2019, all was well
Suddenly the virus silently started taking lives
Young and old
No one was safe
No one knew that the year ahead would be like this
A year of death, a year of sorrow
Early this year COVID-19 rose up
Killing the people of China so horribly
We all thought that it was China's problem
Was W.H.O slow?
Did they do enough?

People continued to travel in and out of China
Spreading the virus wildly
The virus moved to and for
Till it spread into every continent
It was declared a pandemic
The US, Italy, France, and Brazil
Countries you thought would defeat the virus
Suffered more than anybody else
Still the virus killed mercilessly
The virus made the top ten world killers
When the cases reached a million
People took more concern
People wore masks, kept a social distance, and
stayed at home
People were locked down for months

Is this GOD 's way of punishing us for our great sin
When will we stop to listen, obey, to help, and
support
But, are we defeated?
Will the human race be extinct because of this
virus?
A vaccine was promised a vaccine we shall get
Stop this rebellion
Together we are strong
We can win this battle
Let's support the scientists to make us a cure and
vaccine
We can help by doing our part
By following the guidelines of our scientists

Daisy Has Questions

Like her sister Hadassah, Daisy Etyang, a pupil at Greenhill Academy added to this gift of poetry. It is a poem that demands answers to this entire coronavirus pandemic. The ten-year-old wants to know why things are the way they are and why the virus chose to spread the way it does.

Daisy wants to know why the virus has 'ruined' her life. She craves joy but cannot have it with all news of death going around. She wonders why the virus would come through the air she breathes.

The young girl wants the world to stop for a moment and listen to the standard operating procedures to beat the virus. She wrote not one but two poems to effect, and here they are.

How

(By Daisy Etyang)

How could something so small become so big

How could something so little become a global pandemic

How could we have stopped before it reached Uganda

The death rate is rising

What can we do

Was it that we didn't know?

Was it that we didn't care?

But are we learning our lesson

Will COVID-19 defeat us

No. No, we are human beings

We defeated smallpox

We can defeat COVID-19

So that we can go back to school

They can reopen half of the world

We can become what we were before it's too late

It might have seemed far

Sadly, it is upon us

Now we must join hands and defeat it

Send it out of our world

Live life without curfew

Imagine, no more

Closed hotels, closed swimming pools,

Closed bars and cinemas.

We want to have the world we had

Before COVID-19 came.

Who's with me?

Why the Air We Breath

By Daisy Etyang

Why did you come
Why have you stayed
Why are you ruining our lives?
There is no joy in COVID-19
There is just illness and death

You're driving us crazy
You're killing us slowly
But the question is why respiratory
Why cough and flu?
Why bring it into our lungs
Why the air what we breath

People crying all over the world
Why mummy
Why daddy
A question answered with more questions
More deaths from traveling
Now school has become virtual learning

Is this a punishment?
Where did we go wrong?
Is this a bad dream?
How do we wake up?
Our world is crumbling slowly
Wash your hands they say
But do we listen

No
No friends or neighbours
But do we listen
No
We need to stand up
Wake up and be alert
We are human beings
Let's listen to our leaders
Let's free the air we breath

No More Landslides· Children Champion Tree Planting

Up to 110 displaced children living in Bunambutye Camp in Bulambuli District in eastern Uganda started a tree-planting campaign during the lockdown. They called it: 'Forget the Past by Planting a Tree Today', the goal of the initiative is to avert the damage caused by human activity on the environment.

Established and managed by teenagers, the campaign's sole purpose was to instill a spirit of environmental conservation in the young generation left displaced by the Mt. Elgon mudslides. Asked why they chose to plant trees at a young age, James Wakholi the teen environmental activism leader at Bunambutye camp told the press that this was to avoid more death of loved ones.

"Almost all of the children in this camp lost someone, or know someone who died from the mudslides; we must prevent it from happening again," he asserted.

With every family allocated one acre of land from the government, they are making it a point to have trees planted in each backyard during the campaign taking place during the lockdown.

The youngsters have planted nearly 300 hundred trees and move around the camp ensuring fellow children each plant a tree in their homes during the tree-planting campaign.

"Our challenge is shortage of land; if we had enough land here, we would have planted more trees than this," 13-year-old Ever Namataka said.



Orphans Donate to the Elderly

In spite being in need themselves, a group of orphans donated relief items to the elderly people in the Nsambya community in Kampala. The children who are members of Care for Children Uganda, distributed sugar, rice, maize flour, and soap, among other things to the vulnerable elderly in the communities of St. Paul zone, Mugwanya Zone, and Nsambya West in Kampala City. Care for Children Uganda is a community-based organization located in Ggaba, Kampala, and aims at helping, feeding, and educating displaced orphans.

Speaking to The [New Vision](#), the organisation's director, Shafique Katende, said that the children came up with the idea themselves. He said that they saw it necessary to give back to the elderly so that fellow able Ugandans would

be encouraged to do likewise and give back to the vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Katende was inspired to respond to the need of the elderly most of whom have no one to look after them or help them. He decided since "the grandchildren" were responding to this need, he would provide leadership as they give back to those he would consider his parents.

95-year-old, Tereza Nasseje applauded The New Vision for their acts of kindness to her, and for the amazing children who were the forerunners of this initiative. She was overwhelmed by this heart-felt love and care, and urged the New Vision to call upon more Good Samaritans to aid the elderly at a time when many are needy.



Meghan Collects Books for her new Friends

8-year old Meghan Kakooba asked her mother if she could donate some of her old books after watching the news and realizing how the lockdown had affected the schooling and learning of less privileged children.

Meghan specifically asked if she could give the books to children of a lady in a little kiosk across from their Namugongo suburb.

The children that received the books were excited and elated to receive such a gift from a child like them, and kept narrating this incident to whoever was glad to give them a listening ear. They too were inspired to collect books and give them out to other children, just as Meghan had done. This further motivated Meghan

to do more and by the beginning of September, not only had she gathered storybooks, but someone gave some new exercise books too.

Meghan insisted on getting an additional two brand new books for the girl in Primary Seven, as well as a Mathematical set. Meghan's acts of kindness brought so much joy her mother, who was indeed humbled by her daughter's giving heart. "I must have done something right," she adds.

Meghan's awareness of the need around them has been heightened to the extent that wherever she goes, Meghan asks other people if they have anything they could donate for her to take back for the children that do not have as much.



Chapter 7 GIVING WITHIN THE ARTS

The creatives in Uganda will need time to heal after the pandemic period left the entertainment industry on its knees. In countries where virtual and digital realms are advanced, and copyright laws work, the creatives might have struggled, but not as much as they did in Uganda, as some were still able learn from online sales and royalties. That is hardly the case in Uganda.

Television became the most viable platform for artists to showcase and practise their trade on an affordable platform while reaching masses that could otherwise not be on internet platforms like YouTube.

All the local stations hosted an artiste for their weekend events, that became the source of income for them. Though it did not earn them much, it was a step in the direction of supporting them during the limited

season. All other artists apart from those in the music industry, were severely impacted.

This period incited a comradery amongst creatives, especially those in the acting world, as they began to look out and raise support for each other.

They also took it upon themselves to become mouthpieces to advocate and educate the masses about the pandemic status quo, and became a source of motivation and encouragement for those facing hard times.

Those that could use their influence to collect and donate charity did, and the rest used their talents to keep the masses light-hearted and sane doing what they do best: entertain.



From Wakaliwood to Bulambuli: 'Making Money'

[Money Makes Money](#) is the title of a hip-hop parody video created to help save businesses in Bulambuli District affected by the Covid-19 lockdown. The project celebrates Ugandan film director, Isaac Nabwana, who collaborated with several creatives in Bulambuli District to raise about UGX 145 Million (\$38,000).

This video was supported by "Communities for Development" which is an organisation that works in Bulambuli District that took on the marketing of the video.

In this video that has since gone viral, rappers Byg Ben Sukuya, MC Yallah, and Jora MC take on the verses written in English, Lugisu, Luganda, and Swahili, while the local creatives act out the different scenes.

These being the most commonly spoken dialects in Bulambuli since the relocation of the Bagisu displaced by the Mount Elgon mudslides, helped with the far reach of the music video.

Nabwana, the founder of Uganda's low budget studio Wakaliwood,

took viewers into the typical Ugandan rural setting it. It was a deliberate move to burst the myth that entrepreneurship only exists in global finance hubs or in urban settings alone.

The creatives demonstrated the inequality of opportunity that exists for business people in the developing world. According to the online arts journal, [It's Nice](#), the money raised will be used to create five new local businesses, support ten existing businesses, and provide 250 entrepreneurs with financial education and support.

Nabwana said his reason to make this video is to prove to the world that it worthwhile investing in Uganda, and to showcase Uganda's creative talent and a sense of humor, and to exhibit the commitment to produce quality products that will in turn improve our communities. Money Makes Money will therefore not only entertain but offer ways in which to help rural communities develop and improve.

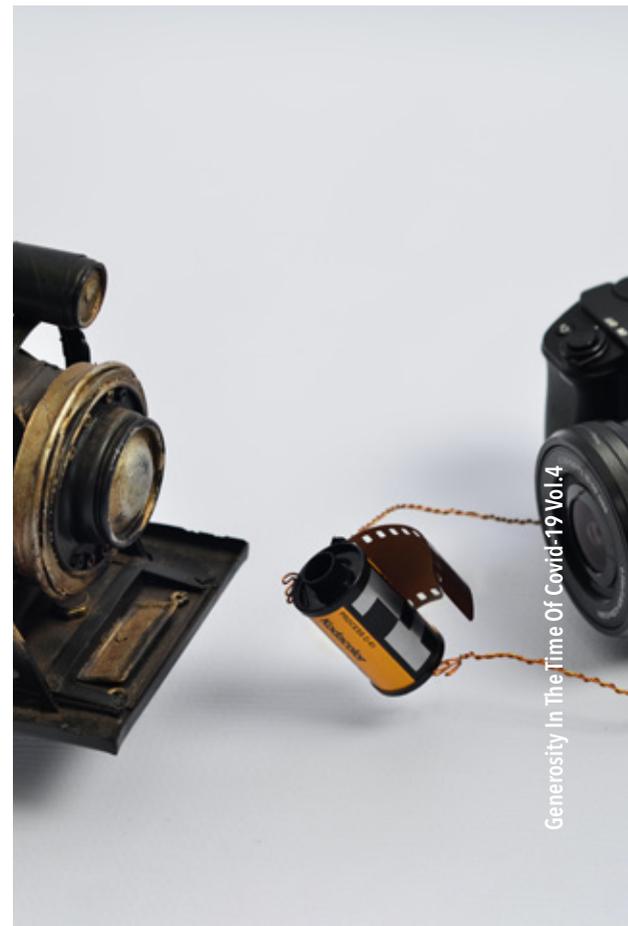
Bringing Film Makers Together

After halting film training activities for months, the Film Club Uganda and informed the Film Club Uganda members, fans, stakeholders, and the general public of their sessions to resume from Tuesday, 11th August 2020 using virtual platforms, taking all transmission onto Zoom link in order to keep production and content making in motion during times with limited .

The film makers were excited for the opportunity to use the Zoom App to pave the way forward for all future going virtual meetings and agreed to keep checking on their progress as they turned to this medium.

They agreed that it was a great relief and a refreshingly and helpful option to forge ahead as being a non-profit organization, the key focus for the organisation would be centered on creating a platform through which filmmakers stay connected and able to dialogue, and keep their trade and art going.

The established platform would bring the existing and up and coming film makers; young or old, to a professional starter gathering to network and share productive information, learn from one another, address issues affecting the industry, and discuss the future of Uganda's film industry.





Bayimba Gives Hope

Despite canceling most activities for the year, the team at Bayimba Arts Festival still shared the little they had with creatives in need. The group of performers agreed to collect whatever they could in an attempt to uphold each other keeping their hope alive as they offered relief to the few they could. They encouraged other artist groups to do the same.

Besides reaching out to some of the artists individually, the Bayimba team, known for its annual arts festivals, also helped keep the conversation on the impact of COVID-19 on air and alive in the public media space.

Covid-19 has had a sudden and substantial impact on the arts and culture around the world, and Ugandan artists were not exempt, Using their story, they encourage

artists to find ways to live in the new normal, by maintaining safety and staying alive is paramount for going ahead beyond 2020.

Earlier on in the lockdown, Faisal Kiwewa, the festival's director, joined the UNESCO-founded ResiliArt dialogue among creatives. At the event which is a global movement that aims to strengthen the resilience of artists and cultural professionals in the face of COVID-19, he spoke out for artists.

The dialogue raised awareness about the impact of COVID-19 on the culture sector and the livelihoods of culture professionals, encouraging artists to participate in the decision-making processes of policies and financial mechanisms aimed at empowering them.

Twilight's Comic Relief

Twilight a budding singer wrote a song 'I'm Present', that uses both comedy and song in the ultimate comic relief, produced from Nigara studios, the song's hilarious lyrics went viral.

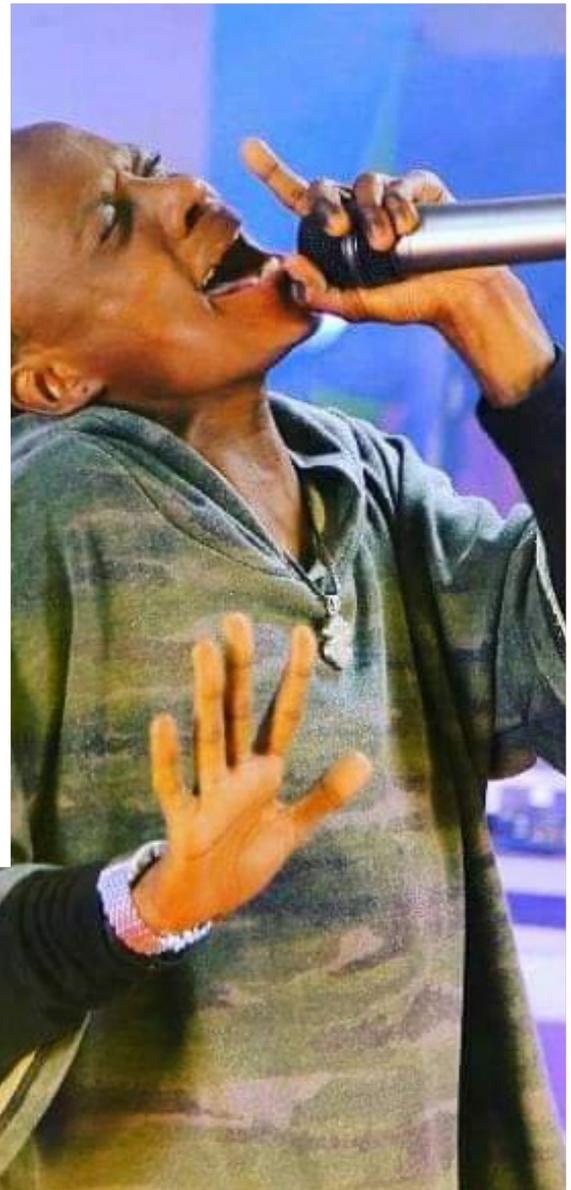
Using words and phrases most spoken in regards to the prevention of the coronavirus, the singer whipped out some hilarious names. It is akin to a class teacher calling the class roll, for a class of really rowdy students, a song that send roars of laughter to all that hear the song.

The Bullet Dancers, made the visuals equally as comical as they had mastered the art of dance and comedy. Besides the lyric choice, watching how each 'student' responded to their name being called makes it even more hilarious. While some danced when called, others jumped up dramatically.

In case you missed it, here is the chorus:

Chorus

Muhumuza, Corona
 I'm present Sir
 Nagadia, Sanitizer
 I'm present Sir
 Byamukama, Virus
 "I'm present Sir
 Agaba Stay At Home
 "I'm present Sir
 Quarantine, Bridget
 I'm present Sir
 Kakembo, Covid
 I'm present Sir
 Opio, Distance
 I'm present Sir
 Derrick, Curfew
 I'm present Sir





Nduga Paints a Picture in Song

Hassan Nduga a Kadongo Kamu artiste, created the song “Corona Virus” that echoes the aches the virus brought about by the virus, such as the losses many made and wondered how people were surviving, he for example did not play his guitar for an entire month in any performance. “Mpawo ataakoze loss kuluno,” he cried out in Luganda to mean: Everyone made losses.

In a cry to Allah, Ndugwa then jokes about Ugandans walking to Tanzania

with no lockdown, to find and because they are fed up with Uganda, where the informal sector had completely shut down, even for sex-workers, taxi-operators, boda-boda cyclists, that all depend and thrive on the movement of people. The song even highlights the plight of drug users, who had to choose their drug habit over food, if they were to survive.

His song was well executed with such great use of his artistic gift – a real gift to Music of Uganda.



Chapter 8 GIVING INFORMATION

According to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming, COVID-19 is not just the century's largest public health emergency, but also a communication crisis. The pandemic has been marred with half-truths, lies and corrupt gain and many people have fallen victim.

This reality is that unless an informed decision is taken by leadership to educate and take responsibility for the messaging during this period, a lot of damage and mis-management of the pandemic would occur. For this reason, a group of mostly volunteer social justice enthusiasts who work at grassroots levels, decided to lead in the education and information made available to the vulnerable populations around the country during the lockdown.

The Girl-Up Initiative -Uganda, worked tirelessly to build youth-friendly, community-centric, and innovative solutions to the complexities accompanying social-distancing and lockdown measures in Uganda. One main concern was the rapid spread of harmful misinformation or the complete lack of access to reliable resources of information. This disproportionately affects vulnerable, hard-to-reach populations, as Clare Tusingwire, the Director of Programs explains;

She said that in Africa, the communications crisis impacts girls and women more severely than it does men. This is attributed to the gender digital divide present in most low and middle-income countries,

with the United Nations quoting the proportion of women using the internet at about 25% lower than the proportion of men. Particularly in cases where women are not in control of their earnings and cannot determine their ability to own or make use of a smart phone device that would be the quickest and cheapest way of access to information.

Girl-Up Initiative decided upon a one-on-one discussion with girls and women in Uganda's rural communities, holding conversations with the group volunteers and staff, to verify their knowledge on the pandemic and to make sure they are not left in the dark, with many important questions unanswered.

"Fighting the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 doesn't require the use of sophisticated technologies. It requires empowering communities with accurate information, dispelling fears, and promoting togetherness," Tusingwire said.

Important to note is that the initiative also used the very time to ensure that vulnerable populations received information and sexual and reproductive health services they needed.

Empowering Women as key role players to homes communities with correct and relevant information and access to health interventions, means giving access to the gate-keepers of the society. By approaching Women and Girls in these conversations, meant empowering communities with correct information and guidelines on how to survive this pandemic

Kabogoza Fights Stigma against COVID-19 Survivors

When Hoima District got its first coronavirus case, the population went into shock. The patient, a guard with a security company in Afghanistan had returned home unaware of his status and when he fell sick and took the test, it came out positive.

The community stigmatised the family and first case of corona in Hoima. They did everything to keep him and his family at bay. The community turned violent against them and the 90 individuals whom they said had direct contact with him. They were denied access to social services and children from that family were chased away from boreholes and community wells.

Noticing how this stigma was creating negative and angry backlash to anyone that had contact with the sick person, Charles Kabogoza decided to do something about it. He brought to attention to the ill knowing it had to be stopped in its tracks. Quickly, he reached out to

World Vision, his employer, which went ahead to alert the District Health Office of the problem that was getting out of hand. He then mobilized fellow community counselors and led the response against stigma and discrimination in Hoima District, particularly Kyabigambire Sub-county. The committee developed a communication strategy on COVID-19 prevention, including prevention of stigma and discrimination of COVID-19 suspects and their families.

World Vision has since supported Charles and the Hoima Task Force in addressing several radio programmes aimed at dismissing the myths and misconceptions, that help quell the hostilities against COVID-19 suspects. World Vision has also established a psycho-social quarantine centre for the rehabilitation and monitoring of the affected persons and resettling them into their homes, and playing a create support into Hoima District.



Tough Love: Priest Grows Nsenyi's Food Basket

Members of Nsenyi Parish, in Kasese District woke to an act of tough love from the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Modest Masereka Kasenyankwe. At first many thought it was just a rumor, but it turned out not to be.

It was announced that parents who did not have at least 20 banana plants in their homestead would not have their children baptized. Rev. Fr. Kasenyankwe argued that it was unfortunate that many families were struggling to secure food during the COVID-19 lockdown despite owning fertile land, and he told the Independent Magazine, they had to be reprimanded.

He took it upon himself to remind the church during the difficult lockdown period, that Christians

needed to work if they are to eat and sustain family life.

He had constantly been teaching been teaching his congregants about food security, even before the pandemic. He pointed out that those that took the growing of food crops seriously, were the ones giving food to the needy. Reverend Father does not see any value in imparting spiritual knowledge to his congregants, if he cannot bring them physical livelihood and guidance on being relevant in day-to-day living.

Scovia Musokyi, a Catholic faithful, noted that many city dwellers, have abandoned agriculture and chosen to depend on markets; and with the lockdown, most families depended on others to survive.





Looking Out for Health Workers in Private Facilities

When many health workers tested positive for the novel coronavirus, health enthusiasts called for more to be done to protect them. Through the Uganda Health Care Federation, the group asked that the private health facilities be given just as much attention as the public facilities.

“Private health facilities are the first point of contact for a significant number of suspect COVID-19 health consumers. The capacity to identify these patients through screening is weak,” they noted.

They argue that most facilities use contact thermometers which are slow and inappropriate in the nature of response required. Even worse is the lack of PPE in different health centers, a thing that is deterring health workers from coming to work for fear of carrying the virus to their families.

While their colleagues in the public health centers are getting all the training to spot and manage the illness, the private health providers have been left behind.

“The knowledge gap at facility level on the management of this condition

is being neglected yet it is a key component of the response,” they further argued.

There is a concern with seasonal conditions such as malaria and flu, many will go misdiagnosed or will be poorly managed while patients are infecting others if not identified as having COVID-19 symptoms.

To help bridge the knowledge gap, they call for systematic dissemination of printed clinical guidelines through health logistics organisations such as National Medical Stores (NMS) for the health workers and the communities, across public and private facilities.

“Essentially there is a need to build capacity in the private sector now to support government facilities manage any future and an inevitable surge in the number of cases,” they advise.

While all of these suggestions are pertinent, the health enthusiasts maintain that there is a need to communicate to the general public on where to go for testing, as private facilities can only screen patients.

Notes for Fufa

On the 22nd- August, we read an interesting opinion by sports enthusiast Moses Banturaki, discussing the football association’s relief food grants on the Daily Monitor site.

He specifically discussed the appropriation of the \$500,000 distributed by FIFA and approved by the FUFA Executive.

Despite starting on shaky ground, he believes that the country’s football body eventually did better, and though the fund will not end the crisis in the game, it will soothe some aches.

With the current need to cover day

to day expenses to keep the Club open amidst no other sales coming in, it is important to recognise that the fund is intended for long term sustenance of club structures as the only viable intervention for the smaller clubs to be supported, as most have not paid salaries for months.

While Fufa and Fifa need to address issues of transparency and accountability, Banturaki is clear that this injection of funds as the biggest float they have ever received even from record sales in a good season, this gives him all the confidence to show case this good deed as a step towards progress.

Photo credit: galaxyfm.co.ug





Chapter 9 THINKING POST-CORONAVIRUS

With several people been infected by the virus and many, many known cases of death recorded world- wide, and an increasing number in Uganda dying too, the pandemic in Uganda has turned from being invisible to visible and is soon plateauing into a state of survival by the fittest.

With many recovering too, and with the anticipation of the opening of markets and industry soon, Mpigi District social entrepreneurs are finding ways to get people back into income generation through their organisation called “Better Places” a group of philanthropists worked on social enterprises to help with income generation.

They explored the provision of purely organic, mildly scented mosquito repellent to eliminate Malaria in Africa.

Transformation of plastic waste bags into sustainable, durable, waterproof, and affordable bags is their next project. This they argued provides natural and sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics while creating employment.

The Gejja Women Foundation is a community-based women’s cooperative in Mpigi District that works with other organisations and individuals to increase their capacity to reach more families. They do this through economically empowering marginalised girls and women. They teach them skill like the production of soap, biodegradable washers, and reusable sanitary tools. Gejja also delivered relief food packages to different special groups, that contain essential items like cooking oil, sugar, salt, tea leaves, onions, maize and millet flour, rice, multipurpose soap. All the relief food was bought from the local farmers as a way of also supporting them.

A Startup to Benefit Many

When Jaluum Herberts Luwizza and friends started a campaign to raise money for a snack business, they did not anticipate such a positive response. Firstly, they set up a GoFundMe page on the Dolphin Fund platform, asking the public to raise an estimated UGX 4Million (a little over \$1000).

What made this particular story special was that Jaluum's venture is a social enterprise looking to offer opportunities to young people who have since found themselves unemployed because of the pandemic.

The experiment has two key objectives:

- I. To show that a group of people can collect a reasonable amount of money, enough to start a business.
- II. To ensure that business works out and the shareholders get a

return on their investment. According to Jaluum, should the objectives be achieved, then the experiment will have been successful.

The risk is here: Starting the creation of an investment culture and space where people comfortably invest their money, trusting in the system enough to know and still go ahead with the risk, as they are risking their own money in startup ideas with no definite promise.

Should this work, he is optimistic that Uganda would have started her own Silicon Valley where ideas and capital meet for the greater good.

Here, startups will no longer have to struggle like they currently are, with limited options of capital to kick start and grow.



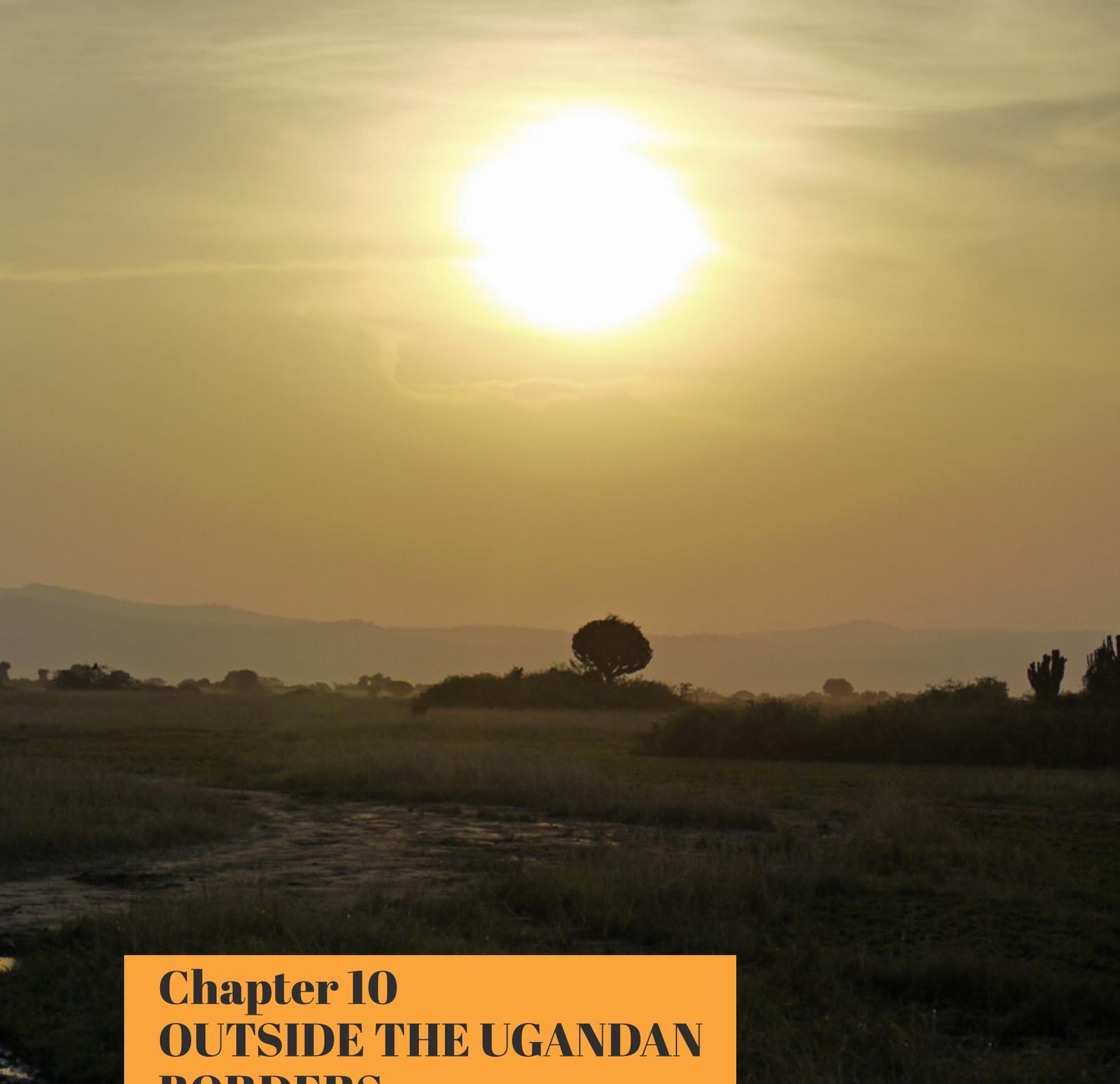
Thinking Survival: A Skills Training for the Youth

Muhammed Dimma Mawejje noticed many unemployed young people in the city. On average, seven out every ten youth he knew had had no stable job in a while. The others were employed as car drivers, boda-boda cyclists (motorbike taxis), market vendors among others.

With the coronavirus holding economies hostage, the situation will not be getting better anytime soon, and 75% of the country's population in the age bracket of 15-25 years. Mawejje believes that young people are going to need hands-on skills training.

With this in mind, he came up with post-COVID-19 hands-on skills training and asked the public to help him raise \$150. He raised almost twice the amount of money and started the training, that according to Ministry of Health safety guidelines, had the group of 16 divided into two groups of 8.

He was ready to train 16 outstanding young people who have been affected by the pandemic, with lifetime skills in banana fiber jewelry, photo frame making, coaster/glass covers all made out of banana waste (banana fibers), and recycled paper board.



Chapter 10 OUTSIDE THE UGANDAN BORDERS

Before the coronavirus, Ann Karasanyi knew her village community in the Eastern District of Namutumba needed a water well. She thought quite deeply about how she could go about this project.

Kasaranyi, a retired World Bank employee was driven to have the well built as she has witnessed young children walking miles to fetch clean water.

Based in the United States then, she joined the Rotary Club in Maryland to see if they might have a solution to her village's predicament. It was there that she met

Engineers without Borders and they agreed to help start the project.

She started Kisaakye Community Empowerment Foundation (KCEF), a nonprofit organisation that provides clean water for the village. Together with the Engineers without Borders, the Rotary Club of Mityana, and the Namutamba Community Welfare Organization (NWACO), they reviewed the project and she started fundraising for money to do it.

Kasaranyi invested personal money to achieve the goal. To ensure work continued, she also reached out to friends and family to join her cause.

Ugandans in Manchester Help Each Other

Recently, a group of Ugandans living in Manchester City in the UK, decided to fundraise and help each other out. During the Luganda Church service in a local church in the city, a Community Support Fund was set up to help ease the disproportional effects of COVID-19 among the Ugandans.

They lobbied organisations, groups, and individuals to help in the reach-out programme to fellow Ugandans in the UK. An organisation called Forever Manchester responded with reusable face masks, soap, and sugar which was distributed among 120 households in the Greater Manchester area. They also procured food to go with the donations from the organisation, led by Enoch Mayanja Kiyaga and several Ugandan volunteers.

The volunteers involved were:

Mrs. Rose Ssali for technical guidance and support.

Mr. Cliff Kyobe Ssenyonjo for planning, procurement, and delivering of food to the collection point, then loading/unloading a truck-full of over 120 food boxes as early as 6 am in the morning.

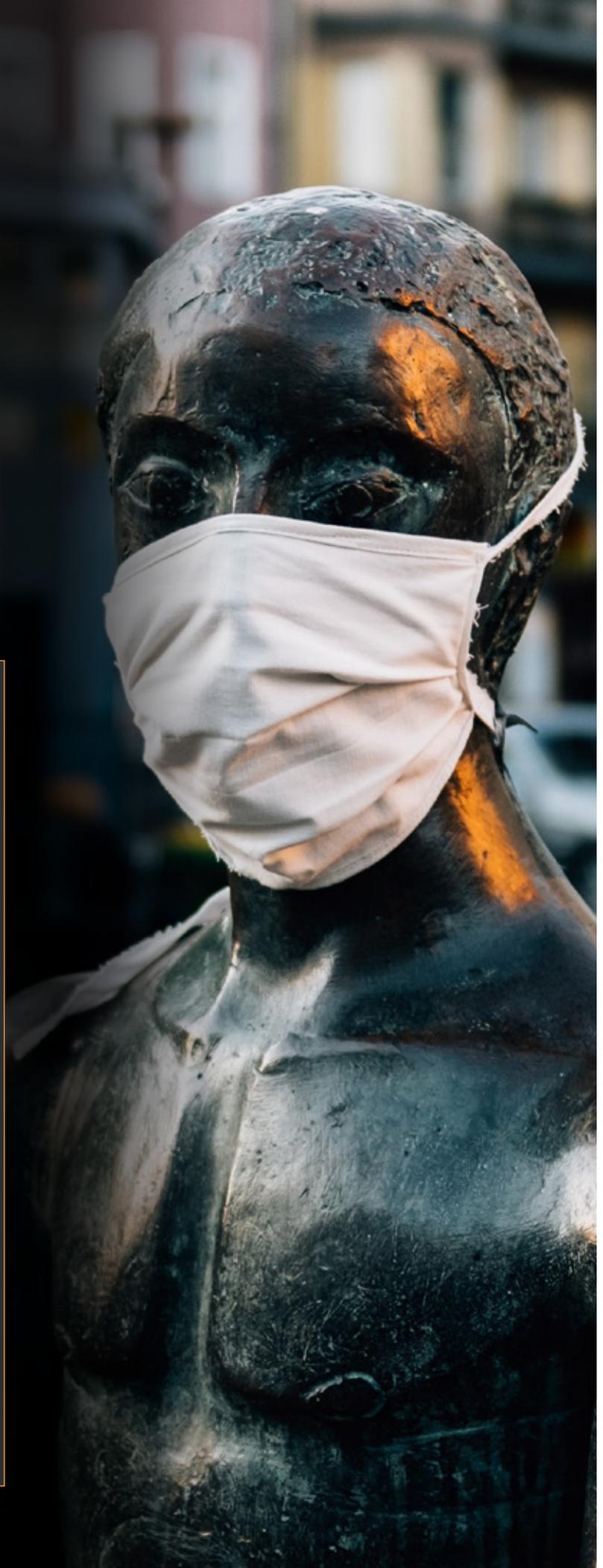
Mr. Isaac Jakira for, for all the background planning and physically procuring of the rest of the items ready for packaging,” he said.

Ms. Samalie Waiswa for handling finances, planning for the project, offering her home freely as a collection point, and for single-handedly packing the rest of the items into the small bags.

Mr. Allan Ssemenda for financial advice and support

Ms. Carol Katusiime for confirming prices and quality.

The overall team ‘Manchester Bees’ who did the leg-work and day to-day, delivering the parcels to the rest of the community members: [Mr. Vincent Magombe; Mr. and Mrs. Kizito; Mr. Jordan Mubiru; Mr. Isaac Jakira; Mr. James Bateeze; Mrs. Lydia Kiyaga; Mrs. Sarah Kasagga; Mr. Jude Kibbalya; Mr. Enock Kimbowa; Mrs. Lydia Kaddu; Mr. Tom Magezi].





A Donation to Fight Crime in the Wild

Tourism enthusiasts across Africa donated a total of thirteen motorbikes with their riding jackets, and helmets to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), for the fight against wildlife crime in Uganda during the pandemic. Through their umbrella organisation, Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), According to AWF's Executive Director, Suudi Bamulesewa, the bikes were chosen to aid in fast-tracking UWA's Wildlife Crime Investigation cases, and attend to incidences of wildlife crime across protected areas.

UWA received and thanked AWF for the bikes and numerous donations that were handed over to the Chairman Board of Trustees, Dr. Panta Kasoma flanked by UWA Executive Director, Sam Mwandha, and top management members at Uganda Museum. This equipment strengthens law enforcement operations that is key in the conservation of biodiversity.

He noted that the poaching incidences that had previously increased around

some protected areas, have considerably reduced.

The loss of tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a reduction of sources of revenue for UWA. This gesture of extending help to where it is needed most to conserve wildlife was very well received.

On behalf of AWF, Mr. Bamulesewa pledged to continue supporting the conservation efforts and was delighted to be associated with UWA in fulfillment of their conservation mandate, by continuing to support all efforts geared towards having wildlife and tourism thrive in Uganda.

When he spoke, Sam Mwandha, the UWA director appreciated the great partnership and the fantastic job AWF has been doing in facilitating the protection of wildlife in the country especially during the COVID-19 crisis. This enables UWA staff to effectively secure national parks better and frustrate poachers and in the overall protection of the parks.



Plot 18, Balikuddembe Road, Naguru Kampala, Uganda
P.O Box 4310 Tel: +256 393 224 056
civsourceafrica.com | info@civsourceafrica.com